



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

Chicago Heights, IL

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Chicago Heights was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Based on poverty, unemployment, and economic growth factors, the state designated Chicago Heights (population 32,776) an Enterprise Community. The poverty and unemployment rates are 17.5 and 8.3 percent, respectively. Sixty-three percent of the population is minority. During the 1990s, the city experienced serious deterioration of its older neighborhoods, especially the East Side. Today, over half the parcels in the East Side are either owned by the city, tax delinquent, or boarded up and vacant. Chicago Heights has identified over 30 brownfields sites with high redevelopment potential. Although a number of these sites have attracted development



Assessment Grant

New
2005

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Chicago Heights for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct six Phase I and four Phase II environmental site assessments and perform community outreach activities throughout the city.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team

312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Chicago Heights, IL
708-756-5315

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

interest, further assessments are necessary to proceed with redevelopment. Assessment of these and other sites will allow Chicago Heights to build on the momentum of its past urban redevelopment efforts to address brownfields sites and meet the city's goals of creating housing and business opportunities, and enhancing recreational and open space resources in the community.